

**Mission Bay Landfill
Technical Advisory Committee
City Administration Building
12th Floor Conference Room B
July 25, 2003
10:00 to 12:00**

Meeting Minutes

TAC Members Present

Donna Frye
John Wilks
David Kennedy, DDS

Jeoffrey Gordon, M.D., MPH
Dave Huntley, Ph.D
Judy Swink

Rebecca Lafreniere
Robert Curtis

TAC Members Absent

Ann de Peyster, Ph.D.
Hiram Sarabia
Bruce Reznik

Chuck Budinger
Brian McDaniel
Frank Gormlie

Michael Zucchet
Ben Leaf

Interested Parties

Scott Andrews
Patrick Owen
John & Diantha Fields

Jay Jones, Ph.D
Corrine Brindley
Maggie Young

Jace Miller
John Ihrig

Staff

Steven Fontana
Nicole Capretz

Sylvia Castillo
Ray Purtee

The meeting was called to order by Councilmember Frye. Self introductions were made. Two corrections were made to the minutes from the June 27th meeting and then the minutes were unanimously approved.

Councilmember Frye clarified that the project funds available for the Mission Bay Landfill Site Assessment are \$600,000, available from the Refuse Disposal Enterprise Fund.

John Wilks asked "What will we get from the extra \$100K available in the budget?"

Steven Fontana answered "This money is set aside for staff engineering charges, miscellaneous project costs and project contingencies."

John Wilks asked "What is 'Refuse Disposal Enterprise Funds?'"

Councilmember Frye answered by clarifying how Enterprise funds differ from the City's General fund and that RDEF monies are primarily from landfill tipping fees.

Councilmember Frye informed the TAC that she is spearheading the creation of a standing committee just for Mission Bay Park issues to be known as the Mission Bay Park Committee. This committee shall consist of 15 members and a copy of a draft ordinance creating this committee was passed out to the TAC. Councilmember Frye said it was her goal to get this ordinance on the Council docket before the August recess.

Councilmember Frye dropped items 6 & 7 from the agenda until Chuck Budinger can attend a TAC meeting to discuss these.

Steven Fontana reviewed the objectives for the meeting.

Ray Purtee spoke on the consultant selection process. He stated that the agreement with SCS has been signed and distributed to all parties; a purchase order is in progress and that SCS can begin the work.

Dr. Jay Jones of SCS gave a presentation on the scope of work for the Mission Bay Landfill Site Assessment. The first three steps will take approx three months and will include 1. Inventory all existing data and reports and underlying lab methods, 2. Compile historical air photos of the site, 3. Compile and determine water quality standards and criteria including COC's applicable to the project.

After this is completed the TAC will be engaged to determine what additional needs, if any, exist to complete our understanding of the site. This will be memorialized in the preliminary field investigation plan. Dr. Jones cited two other sites where SCS has performed similar work- a landfill in Pearl City, Hawaii, and a burn dump in National City. Both of these sites were capped in place.

Dr. Gordon mentioned that SCS's experience with the above two projects helped them rank high in the consultant selection process.

Councilmember Frye recommended that TAC participants review the "Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin" available on line at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb9/programs/basinplan.html> Reviewing the plan will show that different bodies of water(e.g. reservoirs vs. bays) have different thresholds of allowable contaminant levels and differing water quality objectives.

Dr. Huntley asked Dr. Jones "What sort of product can we expect from the historical review portion of the scope of work?"

Dr. Jones answered "An annotated bibliography, tables of analytical data, and historical water levels. In short, enough information to answer the questions: where are there gaps in the data and what historical data is useful?"

A roundtable discussion ensued on the question posed by Councilmember Frye "When we sink a well and find something, what will we do?" Some felt that SCS should report findings direct to the TAC and not be swayed by private business concerns or local government; there was a suggestion that the work plan prepared by SCS should address such a situation beforehand; another suggestion was that once regulatory agencies get involved in any material finding there must be only one source of contact with the City- the Project Manager for the site assessment, Mr. Ray Purtee. Then he could funnel their inquiries to the appropriate parties. The group reached a consensus that SCS was not hired to perform public outreach; inquiries brought by the public or regulatory agencies should come to the TAC or Ray Purtee.

A discussion ensued on the two differing issues present in this site assessment- land use versus health and safety. Dr. Jones stated that he will not be swayed by politics, property lines or land use as he conducts the site assessment. John Wilkes stated that he thinks the Coastal Commission should declare a moratorium on permits until the site assessment is complete. Councilmember Frye assured the group that any discovery of an exceedance of a health and safety standard will be reported.

A discussion ensued concerning using modern 3-D software mapping techniques as part of the data analyzation for the site assessment. Dr. Jones stated such mapping will be used if it has value to the assessment. Councilmember Frye recounted the 3-D mapping done for the Fiesta Island land bridge study and how it presented a useful picture of pollutant transport through enhanced water circulation.

Scott Andrews stated that "Computer mapping can give good analysis and is a good tool that should not be thrown out." Dr. Jones replied that he was concerned about the viability of "smoothing" data points when discrete sampling techniques such as "direct push" probes are employed.

Councilmember Frye admonished the group to share any info such as monitoring data that they have on the landfill site with the consultant SCS or the TAC.

Councilmember Frye requested that there be no August meeting of the TAC. Dr. Gordon made the motion, Dr. Kennedy seconded, motion was approved.

Judy Swink stated that she could not be present at the September TAC meeting.

For the Public Comment portion of the agenda, the subject of the recent California Earth Corps (CEC) letters to regulatory agencies was discussed. The letter of June 11, 2003 was passed out. John Wilks stated the CEC funds actions that the Sierra Club cannot. The CEC believes that monitoring well J24 indicates an ongoing clear and present danger to the public. He recited Hydrogen Sulfide levels discovered in this well by IT consultants approx 21 months ago on the order of 1024 PPM. He stated that much lower levels than this are potentially lethal and require evacuation of the area.

Councilmember Frye asked Mr. Wilks to clarify if he felt that a State standard had been exceeded? Mr. Wilks answered in the affirmative.

Rebecca LaFreniere stated that probe J24 was a temporary probe and was 15 feet below grade, not at surface level, therefore (gas levels discovered) were not a threat to public health and safety. The data collected from this probe is valuable for future uses at the site that involve excavation.

Councilmember Frye asked "What is being done to safeguard the public from possible exposure during digging for the Journey To Atlantis (JTA) ride?"

Rebecca LaFreniere answered that since the JTA ride is within 1000' of the landfill boundary, they are required to continuously monitor for hydrogen sulfide, methane and oxygen during excavation work. These measures are included in both the site Health and Safety Plan and community Health and Safety Plan.

John Wilks stated that the CEC has filed a petition to the State Coastal Commission to have the permit rejected for the JTA ride because of H₂S gas in monitoring well J24 and because Sea World removed soil for the JTA that could expose the public to this gas.

Rebecca LaFreniere commented that the IT report in question had several other probes, closer to the JTA ride than probe J24 that showed no elevated levels of gas below grade.

Dr. Jones requested any data showing steel drums and liquid wastes buried at the site as described in the CEC letter be provided.

John Wilks responded that he would release his data at an appropriate time.

Dr. Huntley stated that Mr. Wilks should release his data now to save everyone time and money in this investigation of the site.

A “Citizen from Clairemont” stated that he was flabbergasted that anyone who has such data wouldn’t release it to the group.

John Wilks responded that he will take this request before the board of the CEC.

Councilmember Frye closed the meeting by stating that people must have trust and integrity in their data and feel free to share it with the group. She wished everyone a happy August.

Public Comment

Items for next agenda

- Update on consultant’s work progress
- Follow up on issues for further study

Future Meetings

- September 19th, 10:00 – 12:00, 12th Floor Conference Room B, City Admin. Building